**GWA Virtual Forum for Church Multiplication Leaders**

**April 12, 2021**

Participants:Mark Bane(Nazarene),Anita Eastlack(Wesleyan), Ed Love(Wesleyan), Esther Cottrell(Church of God), Tom Planck(HealthyGrowingChurches-Church of God), Dustin Webber(Free Methodist)and Ron Duncan.

Purpose: To evaluate the COVID impact on church planting, update on each group, and plans for fall meeting October 4/5, 2021.

Main ideas shared:

1. Church planting is continuing during COVID with some new twists. COVID has accelerated “out of the box thinking.”
2. New creative training and support models have been developed.
3. Diversity(gender, ethnicity-Black, Spanish, India) emphasis has been increased with several groups.
4. The healthy churches prior to COVID are healthy today. Struggling churches have been experiencing greater difficulty. Few churches have been closed because of COVID.
5. Many churches have entered the virtual world since the onset of COVID. Yet to be determined what the models will look like after COVID.
6. A concern was registered about the long term impact on church leaders who have been under the pressure of leading the church during COVID. The need to think about how to identify “burn out” and respond appropriately.
7. Recruitment of church planters is trending toward sending churches .
8. One group is finding an increase in female church planters.

Fall Topics

Besides meeting with Michael Beck- Fresh Expressions and Jeremy Stephens- Under Ground, we will have discussions around: Digital Church and Coaching Structures; Starting Church Planters Networks; and dealing with Equality Act implications.